

**LOUISE RICHARDS | CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Louise co-founded Motionhouse with Kevin Finnan in 1988 and is the driving force behind Motionhouse's trailblazing journey and global success. Her vision shapes the company's activity and strategic direction.

Louise is instrumental in developing the many partnerships Motionhouse enjoys across the industry. She is skilled at spotting opportunities for the company and persuasive in her pitches for commissioning, project development and collaboration. Louise has built the company from its original two-hander to become a global force, delivering dance performance and participatory work throughout the UK and internationally. She produces many of the acclaimed large-scale productions that have made us the go-to company for the creation and delivery of major international performance events.

Louise has developed a range of new markets for Motionhouse and brokered collaboration and partnerships with other sectors including local and international businesses, creative industries, educational institutions as well as arts venues and festivals.

Originally a dancer and choreographer, Louise has undertaken numerous commissions for other companies and maintains close links with the Motionhouse performing company and creative process, acting as a sounding board and an outside eye. Louise continues to offer inspirational training to dancers, students, teachers and practitioners both in the UK and throughout the world.

A recognised leader in the sector, Louise is regularly invited to present and speak at seminars and conferences. Committed to the development of the dance sector, she acts as a mentor for performers, arts leaders and organisations, as well as developing a range of apprenticeships and professional development strands for the Motionhouse programme. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

**KEVIN FINNAN MBE | CO-FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Kevin co-founded Motionhouse with Louise Richards in 1988. Kevin is known for his dynamic, highly visual productions integrating dance, circus and digital technology. He is responsible for the distinctive style that Motionhouse is renowned for.

He is passionate about exploring and questioning the traditional use of space in performance, which has led to the creation of an extensive body of work over more than three decades. He is regularly commissioned to create extraordinary dance spectacles, most notably as Choreographer and Movement Director of the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Kevin has created major productions celebrated globally. These include more than 45 theatre and outdoor festival productions, large-scale outdoor spectacles, bespoke performance events to mark Capital of Culture celebrations across Europe, and the launch of the London 2012 Festival with The Voyage in Birmingham city centre. In March 2022, Kevin created and directed Wondrous Stories, which opened the Birmingham 2022 Festival, the six-month celebration of arts and culture across the West Midlands that ran alongside the Commonwealth Games. More recently, Kevin was the artistic director for The National Lottery's Big Eurovision Welcome event in Liverpool in May 2023. Kevin also created Watermusic, a large-scale outdoor spectacle for the Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture celebrations in Randers, Denmark in September 2017 and Lumen, a large-scale outdoor spectacle in the lead up to the TM2021 European Capital of Culture celebrations in Timisoara, Romania in October 2018.

In 2017, Kevin became the first Visiting Professor of Dance at Birmingham City University's Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He has an MA in Contemporary Performing Arts from University College Bretton Hall and a PhD in Theatre from Warwick University. He is a Research Fellow at the University of Warwick and in 2013 he was made an honorary Doctor of Letters at the University of Warwick in recognition of the importance of his work and his service to the arts. He was awarded an MBE in 2013 for his services to dance.

## **DANCER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **DANIEL MASSARELLA – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

Daniel is from Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, in the UK. After 12 years as a Motionhouse performer, Daniel is now the company's associate director, supporting artistic director Kevin Finnan in the delivery of all aspects of our artistic programme. In this role, Daniel has been closely involved in the creation of Hidden. He was also assistant director for our large-scale production Wondrous Stories, the opening show of the Birmingham 2022 Festival; the National Lottery's Big Eurovision Welcome; our touring production for families, Starchitects; and our Christmas family production Starchitects Save Santa!. After starting dancing aged 14 with Cheshire Youth Dance Company, Daniel graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 2011, having been a member of Verve11, the school's postgraduate performance company. Before joining Motionhouse, Daniel worked with Earthfall, touring with the company's award-winning show At Swim Two Boys. Daniel joined Motionhouse in 2013 for the first USA tour of Scattered. As a dancer with Motionhouse he also performed in BLOCK, Broken, Captive, Cascade, Charge, Fragile, Knot, Lost, Lumen, Midwinter

Magic, Nobody, Tigress, Traction, Underground, Watermusic, WILD, Wondrous Stories and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

### **BETH PATTISON – SENIOR DANCER AND REHEARSAL LEAD**

Born in Durham in the UK, Beth was introduced to contemporary dance at the CAT Programme at Dance City, Newcastle, before studying for a BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Beth performed alongside Punchdrunk as part of the everyBODY Project in Selfridges and was a part of the creative processes and performances of work by Stephanie Schober and Maciej Kuźmiński. Beth joined Motionhouse in 2017 as a Professional Placement Scheme Dancer through the postgraduate programme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. In 2018, she became a full-time Motionhouse company member and has performed in BLOCK, Captive, Charge, Happy Hour, HENGE, Lost, Lumen, Midwinter Magic, Nobody, Starchitects, Starchitects Save Santa!, Three, WILD, Wondrous Stories and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

### **ALEX DE LA BASTIDE**

Alex is originally from Northwich in Cheshire in the UK and started contemporary dance at the age of 14 at the Lowry CAT scheme. She joined Motionhouse in 2021 after graduating from Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, where she started training at the age of 17. Alex has performed in Captive, Gravity, HENGE, Knot, Nobody, Starchitects, Starchitects Save Santa!, Three, WILD, Wondrous Stories and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

### **OLLY BELL**

Born in Leeds in the UK, Olly began his dance training at the Northern Ballet CAT scheme, later transferring to the CAT Scheme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. He completed his BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and joined the EDGE Postgraduate Company in his final year. After graduating, he joined Rosie Kay Dance Company for the creation and UK Tour of 10 Soldiers and performed in a UK and USA Tour of 5 Soldiers. Olly has also performed the principal role of Jaschui in the Royal Opera House production of Death in Venice. Since joining Motionhouse in 2020, Olly has performed in Captive, Happy Hour, HENGE, Knot, Nobody, Starchitects, Starchitects Save Santa!, Three, WILD, Wondrous Stories and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

**LLEWELYN BROWN**

Llewelyn is from Wick, South Wales in the UK. He got into dancing through gymnastics and a connection to a local theatre school, where he learnt dance, singing and acting, starting at the National Dance Company of Wales Associates Programme at the age of 13. Llewelyn trained at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, and joined Motionhouse after graduating in June 2021. He has performed in Captive, Gravity, HENGE, Knot, Nobody, Starchitects, Starchitects Save Santa!, Three, WILD, Wondrous Stories and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

**DYLAN DAVIES**

Raised in Shropshire in the UK, Dylan began his training with the DanceXchange CAT scheme and 2Faced Dance Youth. In 2019 and 2022, Dylan co-directed alongside Jules Young at No Sleep Dance Theatre, creating and performing works at Green Man Festival. Dylan is interested in screendance and one of his works was played at the Smithfield Festival site during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Dylan graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance with a first-class BA (Hons) in Contemporary Dance in 2022. He first worked with Motionhouse as a Professional Placement Scheme Dancer through Northern School's postgraduate programme, and in June 2023 became a full-time company member. He has performed in Captive, HENGE, Knot, Nobody, Starchitects, Starchitects Save Santa!, Three and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

**BLAIR MOORE**

Originally from the Lake District in the UK, Blair's dance journey began with Breaking, he then trained in contemporary dance with Cumbria Youth Dance Company and Eden Youth Dance Company. Aged 15, he joined the CAT Scheme at the Lowry in Salford and joined the National Youth Dance Company. He then worked as an apprentice with Southpaw Dance Company before completing the Foundation Course at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Blair then trained at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, graduating in 2022 and has since worked with artists including Akeim Toussaint Buck and Akram Khan Company. Before joining Motionhouse as a full-time company member in January 2024, he worked with us on residencies of HENGE at Bluestone National Park Resort in Wales in summer 2022 and 2023 and joined the cast of Starchitects Save Santa! at Midlands Arts Centre in December 2023. He has also performed in Knot, Lost, Nobody, Three and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.

**SOPHIE O'LEARY**

Originally from Cork in Ireland, Sophie started dancing aged 5, training in ballet and contemporary dance at Cork School of Dance. She also competed in acrobatic gymnastics for Ireland. Sophie started her professional dance training with the Barcelona Dance Centre and Area Jeune Ballet in Geneva. She graduated from Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in 2022, before joining Motionhouse as a Professional Placement Scheme Dancer through the postgraduate programme at Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Before joining Motionhouse as a full-time company member in January 2024, she worked with us in 2023 on a residency of HENGE at Bluestone National Park Resort and was part of the cast of Starchitects Save Santa! at Midlands Arts Centre in December that year. She has also performed in Captive, Lost, Nobody, Starchitects, Three, WILD and Motionhouse's many TV appearances.